



The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club



Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL

K4GSO.us

November 2024

President's Message

Adam Parker, NY5E

Our membership has continued to grow, not just in number, but variety! Newly licensed locals and newcomers to our area have joined and, my hopes are, found our club to be welcoming and vibrant. Our presentations from industry professionals, operators and innovators have been enlightening, educational and entertaining! As a group, the officers and directors have endeavored to move the club forward to accommodate and satisfy the new, enthusiastic club body, and will continue to make this a priority as we carry through the year's end. We will continue to work to keep an open line of communication between members, whether it be forming new committees with specific interests, or relaying members' ideas and suggestions to the board, to promote continued strong member participation. On that note..... we have two topics of importance to address at the upcoming meeting!

HamFest is nearly upon us and there is never a greater need for volunteers than this yearly event. For those new to the club, this is our single biggest "money making" event of the year. Our goal is to provide vendors, tailgaters and attendees a great experience and that requires YOUR help. Elbert will provide his ever eloquent presentation of the HamFest event. All joking aside, Elbert spends a lot of time and energy working out the many details that are already tied up and finished before the first table rolls out, and he deserves heavy praise for his efforts. I will leave the details and summary of our event's organization to Elbert at next week's meeting.

The second item on Tuesday's agenda will be our election of officers and directors. You will find, on this year's ballot, that all club officer positions have a single candidate. This means; first, and most obvious, that all 2024 officers will remain in their current position(s) for one more year. I hope this fact indicates the members' approval of the club's leadership but it leads me to the second fact, which is that we will need to see a few brave souls emerge to take the lead next year. I'd encourage all members to resolve to take full advantage of what the SSRC has to offer. Attend

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Green Clover Hall

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

6:00 PM Mentoring & Socializing

7:00 PM Meeting

**Program: Election of Officers
&
Hamfest 2024—Elbert, KQ3K**

SSRC Board of Directors, First Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Green Clover Hall

All are welcome

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 7 — Hamfest

7:30 AM First Christian Church, Ocala

Setup begins December 6, AM

Tuesday, December 17— Holiday Party

*6:00 PM Setup, 7:00 PM Installation of Officers
followed by Dinner*

Check out Upcoming Events: K4GSO.us

Silver Springs Radio Club Net

K4GSO Repeater, 146.610, PL 123

Mondays at 7:30 PM

ARES/SKYWARN Net

K4GSO Repeater, 146.610, PL 123

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM



Our club is growing and
Green Clover Hall has a lim-
ited number of chairs.
Please consider bringing a
folding chair or two as a

Continued on next page...

President's Message, continued...

the meetings. Participate actively on operating days! Go to a park and try your hand activating with one of our many POTA "pals". Suggest a club activity that YOU would enjoy, chances are you're not alone. I hear it all the time.... "you guys have such a great club...", "I've belonged to several clubs, but never like this...." . Our club is great because we have great members, and great members have great ideas! Please continue to share those ideas so we can grow and enjoy the many facets of our great commonality...HAM RADIO.

SSRC Election Information

President- *Adam Parker NY5E
 Vice President- *Hayden Kaufman N2HAY
 Treasurer- *Annie Allen KN4RIC
 Secretary- *Wayne Peterson AB4WP

Directors- *Andy Allen NA4DA
 *Bill Gillespie KW5BG
 *Terry Strey KN4FMH
 *Tim Trombley K8TAT
 Ed Long WA4SWJ
 Wayne Millican WA1PMA
 John Norman KQ4BFO

* denotes incumbent status



Membership

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K

MEMBERSHIP:

Once again, we are pleased to report that our membership has increased with another member approved at the last General Meeting. Please welcome our new member Gerald Hammer, KB8TSO, General. For those who are interested in the current club composition metrics, here they are:

LICENSED MEMBERS	119	Technicians	27
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS	94	Generals	33
FAMILY MEMBERS	18	Advanced	8
LIFE MEMBERS	7	Extras	49
PENDING MEMBERS	1	Associates	2
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	2	Total	119

Current dues paying members will receive priority on club activities like Field Day, VE team participation and access to Perry Field and GCH. Non-members can still access the Oracle on the club website but will not be included on member emails. As a final note, subscription to the club's Groups.io page is restricted to dues paying members.

We are exceeding our 2024 goal of continuing to grow and increase member participation in the club's various activities. It is the sign of a healthy club! If you know of other hams who would be interested in joining, please invite them to our

meetings, operating days or club activities. There is an online application and a link to a paper application on the K4G-SO.us website. We continue to encourage our technicians to upgrade to at least General Class and Generals to Extra to enjoy the full benefits and privileges of their licenses. Regardless of your license class, we continue to learn from each other. Newer hams and members – don't be afraid to ask questions and for help.

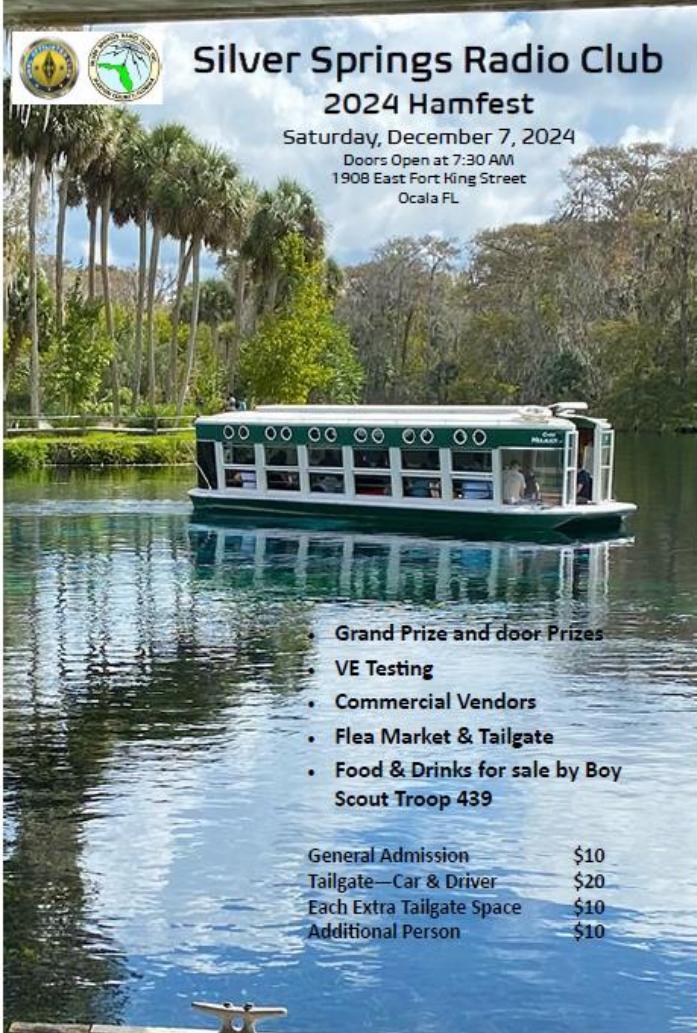
HAMFEST:

It is almost here ... 7:30am on Saturday, December 7 at First Christian Church, Ocala. Your long wait is almost over to have your dreams of new ham gear and stuff satisfied. So, buckle-up and get cash in your pocket and credit card limits increased. Most of our commercial vendors have confirmed their attendance with a couple of changes. Vendor setup will occur starting early on the 6th.

We have great Hamfest teams who know their assignments and their continued participation is vital to our success. Since last December, we have asked for volunteers to help. At this time, those slots are now filled. Our volunteers make this a successful event – so thank you to all who have stepped up. For those not working the event, please plan to attend and support our vendors and tailgaters. There's lots of good stuff that you need to buy and take home and use. Don't forget your cash and credit cards!

On a sad note, we report the passing of "Satellite" Sam Adams. He has been a long-term supporter/vendor at our hamfests and was noted for his "variety" of items for sale. Sam had been in declining health the last couple of years. He was a character and will be missed.

More details to follow at November General club meeting, the Oracle and the club website.



Silver Springs Radio Club
2024 Hamfest
 Saturday, December 7, 2024
 Doors Open at 7:30 AM
 1908 East Fort King Street
 Ocala FL

- Grand Prize and door Prizes
- VE Testing
- Commercial Vendors
- Flea Market & Tailgate
- Food & Drinks for sale by Boy Scout Troop 439

General Admission	\$10
Tailgate—Car & Driver	\$20
Each Extra Tailgate Space	\$10
Additional Person	\$10

Membership/Hamfest, continued...

GREEN CLOVER HALL

As a reminder and for those new to the club, the county generously allows our use of Green Clover Hall (GCH) for our meetings and functions. The county also makes extensive use of GCH for training purposes utilizing different table and chair arrangements. Sometimes the county may have food or snack items for their participants and are totally "off limits" to us. After each use, please return all tables and chairs to where they were found, sweep out any grass or debris tracked in from the front door and most importantly, turn off any equipment that was used.

The county also recently upgraded the AC unit in the radio room, replaced the ceiling tiles and performed the work for new coax access points. They have been

a great supporter of the club dating back to 1947, so we need to continue to do our part to maintain this valuable relationship.

POTA

This time of year in Ocala is "Chamber of Commerce" picture perfect weather. It is cool to slightly warm, lower humidity, fewer biting bugs and just plain pleasant. So, why are you sitting inside? Go out and operate portable somewhere. Our state is blessed with many parks in the POTA program – either locally or within an hour or so drive, so get out there and have fun. Make some contacts. If you don't want to go to a park, grab a cool one and set-up in your driveway or outside in the backyard. Regardless, you will get some fresh air and test your equipment should the need arise.

From Carl Berry, KC5CMX

**Sad news from the
radio world to pass
on.
Satellite Sam Adams
has gone Silent Key.**

Like

Comment

Send

Share

423

4 shares

Meta AI >

...

What people are saying

The radio community mourns the loss of Satellite Sam Adams. Commenters share fond memories of his presence at hamfests and his kindness, with one noting, "His voice is traveling out there in space. Forever." Condolences pour in from fellow hams and friends, remembering him as a beloved figure who will be deeply missed.

Pacific Antenna 40/20 Trap Dipole—Product Review

Bert Garcia N8NN

Pacific Antenna has two dual band trap dipole kits that are lightweight and ideal for POTA or emergency operation [<https://www.grpkits.com/dualbanddipole.html>]. The trap dipole is 30% shorter than a full-size dipole, weighs only 5 ounces, and can handle up to 100 watts. The antenna can be used in a dipole, inverted-V or sloping dipole configuration.

Pacific Antenna 40/20 Meter Trap Dipole

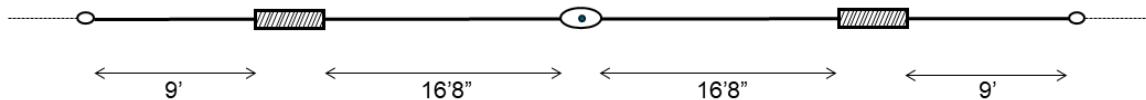


Figure 1: 40/20 meter trap dipole dimensions.

Available in 40/20 meter and 30/17 meter versions, I built the 40/20 meter dipole in less than an hour. The step-by-step instructions are clearly written and include photos to guide you. Two capacitors in series resonate the trap coil and isolate the inner part of the antenna for 20 meters. On 40 meters the trap acts as a loading coil to shorten the overall length of the antenna. A 40 meter dipole is approximately 66 feet; this trap dipole is only 51 feet long.

The kit includes everything required to build the complete antenna – a center insulator with BNC connector, printed circuit boards for mounting the supplied capacitors, coil forms, wire, end insulators, and heat shrink tubing to protect the traps.



Trap components.

Figure 3 shows a completed trap at the top, the center is the capacitor board, and at the bottom is the coil.

I installed the antenna as an inverted-V with the center at 25 feet. The 20 meter resonance was at 14.000 MHz, and 40 meters was at 7.035 MHz -- both good enough for CW and FT8. To raise the resonance up into the phone band, shorten both sides of the inner 20 meter portion by one or two inches, then shorten the ends of the antenna as needed to resonate in the 40 meter phone band.

This dipole kit sells for \$25 plus \$4.50 shipping. Enjoy!

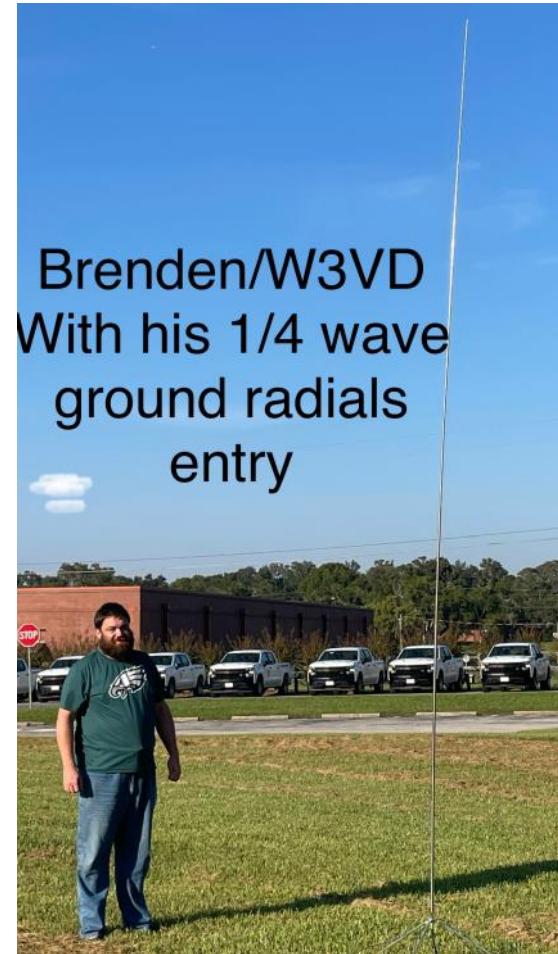
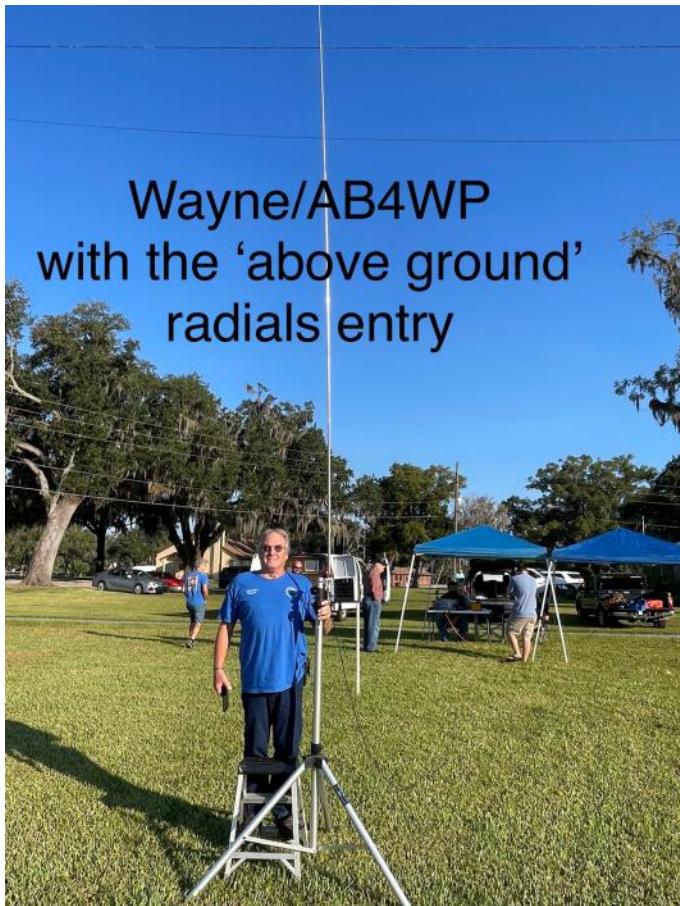


Figure 2: Antenna kit components.

Figure 3:

Operating Day—October 26, 2024

Izzy KT4WA



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Operating Day—October 26, 2024, continued

Izzy KT4WA



POTA—October 19, 2024

Wayne Peterson, AB4WP

K4JKK, AB4WP, WA4SWJ doing POTA at US-3737



Halloween 2024 Recruiting Effort

Carl Berry, KC5CMX



I set up my station as a Ham operator Halloween night. Had several kids interested, some made contacts.



Portable Non-Resonant Delta Loop

by Bert Garcia N8NN

In April 2020 I built a full-wave 20-meter wire delta loop antenna [1] with the apex at the top and fed it at the corner to provide a low angle of radiation for DXing, Figure 1. While this antenna performs well, it requires a center support at least 25 feet tall making it a cumbersome antenna for portable use. Using a 25-ft telescopic fiberglass mast, guy ropes are required. This original delta loop used 70 feet of wire to resonate on 20 meters. With an antenna tuner at the feedpoint or at the radio, this antenna was successfully used on all bands 20 to 10 meters.

Original 20 Meter Delta Loop

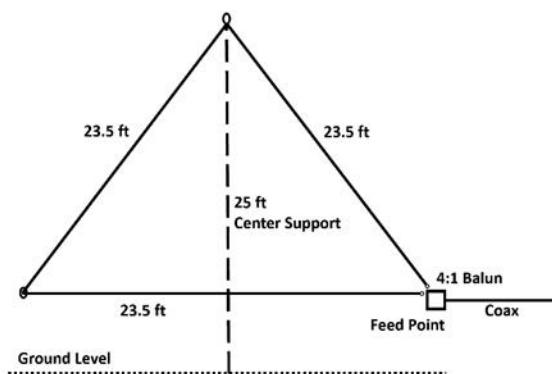


Figure 1: 20-meter Delta Loop

Self-Supporting Non-Resonant Delta Loop

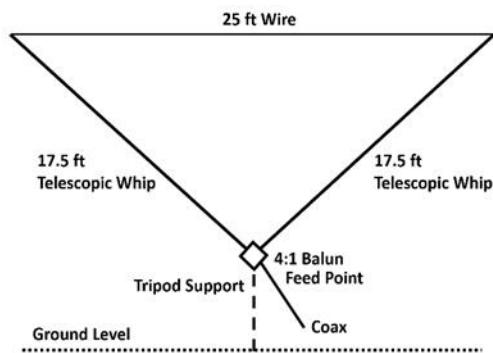


Figure 2: Non-Resonant Delta Loop

Looking around the Internet for portable delta loop antennas, I found several commercial loops that are self-supporting using telescopic whips, Figure 2. I used two 18.5-ft telescopic whips mounted at 90 degrees to each other, and a lightweight wire connected between the ends to make a 60-ft loop, slightly smaller than a full-wave on 20 meters. This loop is not resonant on 20 meters; however, with the 4:1 balun, an antenna tuner easily matched the loop on all bands 20 to 10 meters. By mounting the loop on a tripod, the telescopic whips make it self-supporting and quickly installed – perfect for portable operation.

Construction details. I used the same construction techniques as I did for the Portable Vertical Dipole Antenna [2]. A 4:1 balun [3] is mounted inside a 4"x4"x4" PVC box which serves as the feedpoint insulator and a mounting point for the whips. Threaded rod couplings and bolts were used to mount the whips. Fender washers were used to strengthen the mounting points for the whips.

A 25-ft length of 26-gauge stranded wire was connected between the tips of the whips with alligator clips to complete the loop. Adjust the wire length to provide enough tension to keep the wire reasonably straight without bending the whips excessively. When you have determined the correct wire length, use a zip tie near each end of wire to make a small permanent loop that can slip over the ball tip. Initially, I used 18-gauge wire for the top wire, but that was too heavy and could not be supported by the whips. The 26-gauge top wire was easily supported by the whips.



Figure 3: Portable Delta Loop



Figure 4: Center Mount, front and rear

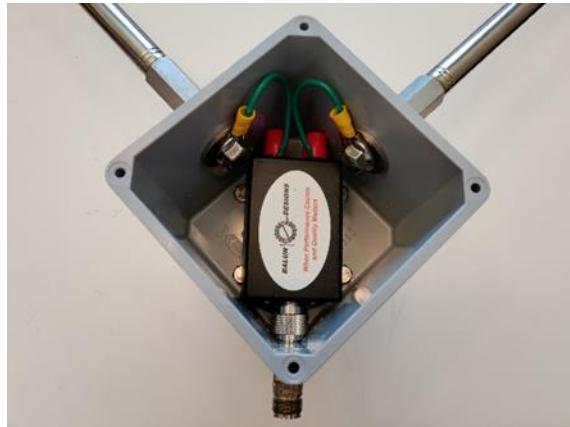


Figure 5: 4:1 Balun in the Center Mount

The 4:1 balun was secured inside the center mount using 3M adhesive pads. Double male and double female coax adapters were used to extend the balun connection out of the box.

To install the delta loop antenna, I found it easier to lay the tripod on the ground, extend each whip, and then attach the top wire. With the loop fully assembled, raise the tripod and loop assembly to stand upright. Attach the coax feedline and a 1:1 unun current choke and you are on the air!

This delta loop antenna can be installed in about 7 minutes since no adjustments are required. It performed well on the air as shown by Reverse Beacon Network [4] spots in the US, Europe, and South America on 20 meters using 20 watts CW during the afternoon.

References:

1. Delta Loop Antenna for DXing, *The Oracle*, April 2020, <https://n8nn.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Delta-Loop-Antenna-for-DXing.pdf>
2. Portable Vertical Dipole Antenna – Lightweight Version, *The Oracle*, August 2024, <https://k4gso.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/The-Oracle-August-2024.pdf>
3. Balun Designs 4110, <https://www.balundesigns.com/low-power-portable-baluns-ununs/>
4. Reverse Beacon Network, <https://www.reversebeacon.net/>

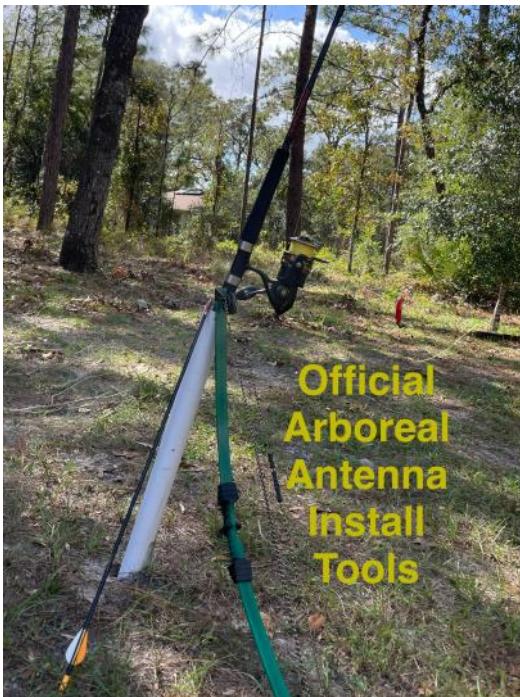
Cobra Ultralite Multiband Dipole Installation for N1JEH

Izzy Irizarry, KT4WA

Continuing our club's commitment to help our members get on the air, today we helped Shawn/N1JEH install his Cobra Ultralite Multiband Dipole at his QTH.

It is supported at about 35' between two pine trees and an oak tree with stainless steel pulleys, paracord, and five pound weights to manage tree sway. Again, another fun event (especially spin casting with a fishing rod at tree tops...hopefully the neighbors didn't take pics.)

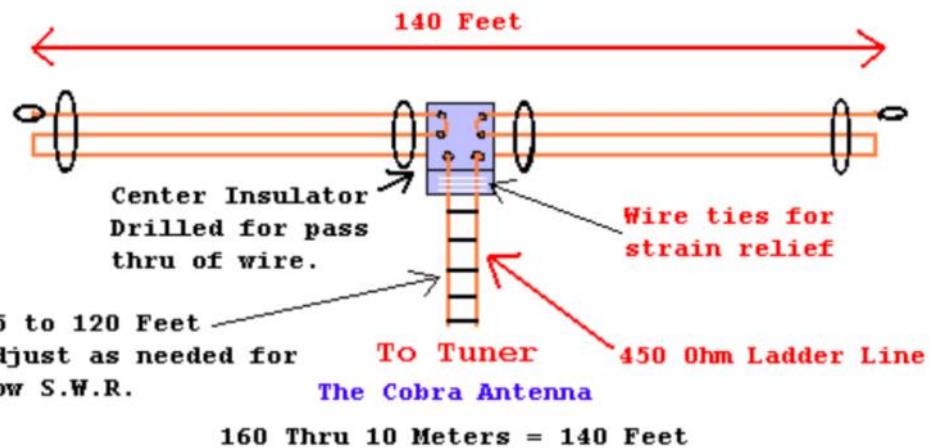
Shawn will update us with it's performance.



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Cobra Ultralite Multiband Dipole Installation for N1JEH, Continued...

Izzy Irizarry, KT4WA



Sharpen Your CW Skills

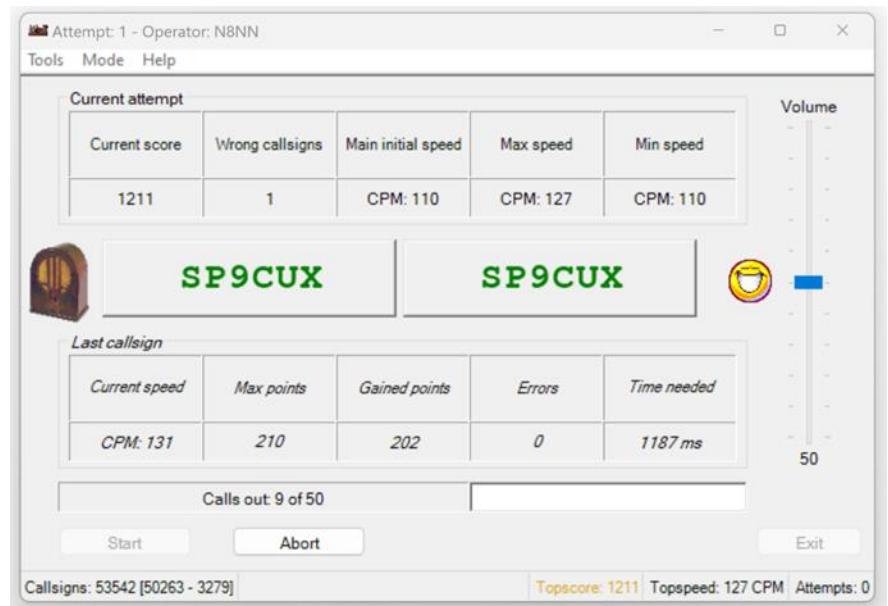
by Bert Garcia N8NN

There are a lot of free computer programs available to help you learn Morse Code (CW). After you've learned the code how do you improve your speed? On the air practice is great, but sometimes it can be intimidating. There's a live operator on the other end of your QSO, and you don't want to embarrass yourself or feel like someone is looking over your shoulder. Here are three Windows programs you can run on your computer that will give you real-world practice to improve your CW skills.

RufzXP. "Rufz" is the abbreviation of the German word "Rufzeichen-Horen", which means "Listening to Callsigns".

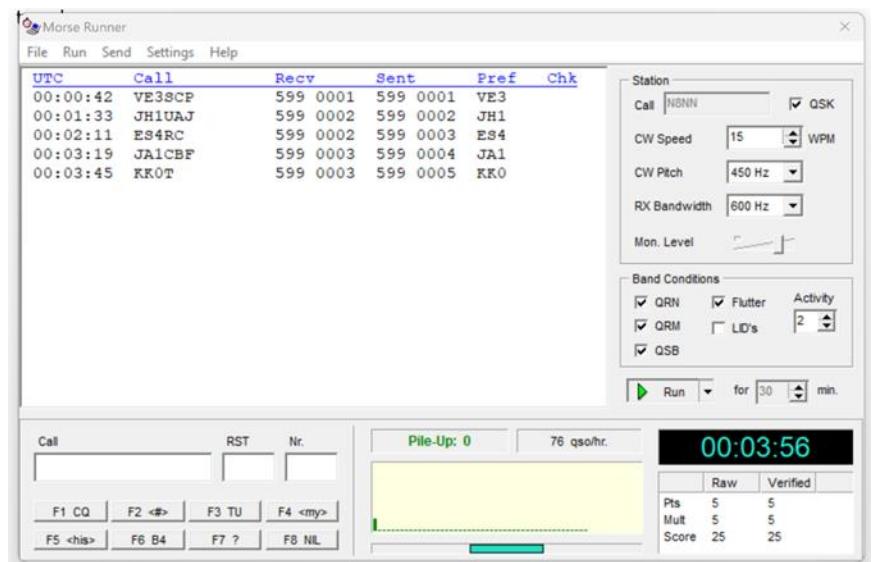
The program sends real amateur callsigns which you type into a field on the screen and press Enter. The program shows the callsign you typed in green color if it is correct. Any portion of the callsign that is not correct is shown in red. If the callsign is correct, the sending speed increases.

After 50 callsigns, or sooner if you abort, your score is shown along with a list of the callsigns sent and what you typed. RufzXP is an official contest at the IARU High-Speed Telegraphy Championships. You can find RufzXP at <https://www.rufzxp.net/>.



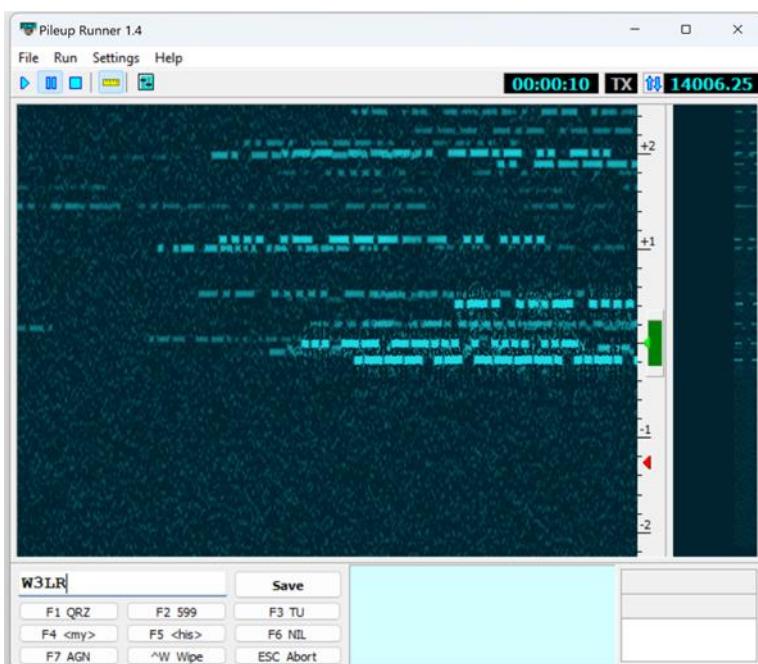
Morse Runner. A step up from just copying callsigns, Morse Runner is a contest simulator where you work stations with a contest exchange as if you are on the air. The program inserts noise, interfering stations, fading, aurora fluttering, and malicious interfering stations – all to make operating appear real. If you make a mistake with a callsign, the calling station will repeat their callsign until you correct the error.

Morse Runner is approved by the IARU for the High-Speed Telegraphy Championships. You can find Morse Runner at <https://www.dxatlas.com/MorseRunner/>.



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Pileup Runner. Pileup Runner simulates operating as if you are a DX station with multiple stations calling you. The program appears on screen as a receiver with a waterfall display and the ability to tune the receiver around the pileup. You can set the number of callers from 5 to 1000. You can adjust the signal to noise ratio of the receiver to simulate real band conditions and give you practice digging callsigns out of the noise. If you do not get a caller's callsign correct, the station will repeat the callsign until you copy it correctly and send a report. The program keeps a log to show who you have worked.



Summary. These three programs are fun to operate and will challenge you to improve both your code speed and operating skills. All are free programs.

2024 SSRC Officers

President - Adam Parker, NY5E
Vice President - Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY
Secretary - Wayne Peterson, AB4WP
Treasurer - Annie Allen, KN4RIC
Past President - Bill Gillespie, KW5BG

Directors:
Andy Allen, NA4DA Board and Membership
Terry Strey, KN4FMH Meeting Minutes
Tim Trombley, K8TAT

SSRC Board of Directors
first Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Green Clover Hall
All are welcome



Committee Chairs

Membership & Events – Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K
Trustee K4GSO – Bruce Richardson, WA4IPU
Newsletter – Marty Brown, N4GL
Perry Field – Terry Strey, KN4FMH
Operating Day – Ethan Rodriguez, KQ4EIC

QST NFL – NFL Section Newsletter
Silver Springs Radio Club Website
NFL Section Website
WA7BNM Contest Calendar
NG3K DX